

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 673

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of
Scottsboro United Methodist Church upon their
100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Scottsboro United Methodist Church of Nashville, the members of which are celebrating the church's 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, officially established in 1912, Scottsboro United Methodist Church traces its lineage back to 1875, when a Grange Hall was built in Scottsboro at 5168 Old Hydes Ferry Pike and utilized as a meeting place for all church denominations; and

WHEREAS, the earliest church records from 1885 show Pastor John C. Stevens leading the local Methodists who had recently organized, making Brother Stevens the first known pastor of the small congregation; and

WHEREAS, in 1910, a group of the Scottsboro Methodist Church youth, led by Mamie Scott and Ercell Carney, dedicated themselves to raising funds for a separate church for the Methodists; and

WHEREAS, organized as a Young Peoples' Club, the group put on a play and other fundraisers to provide the first money set aside for the building. Raising over \$1,000, the money was used to buy the organ and beautiful windows; and

WHEREAS, the land for the building and parsonage were donated by T.M. Scott and Emmet Hyde, and the groundbreaking was launched by Newt Hulme in 1910. The contractor was Mr. L.A. Nelson of Bordeaux and the building was completed in 1912; and

WHEREAS, Reverend J.C. Whitson, who helped complete the building, was the first pastor of Scottsboro United Methodist Church and was aided by Reverend G.A. Morgan, who served as the presiding elder, A.J. Howington, who served as the first Sunday School Superintendent, and Ercell Carney, the first organist; the first wedding in the new building was that of Ercell Carney to the Reverend Omar Charles performed on October 26, 1915; and

WHEREAS, originally part of the Cumberland Circuit of the East Nashville District of the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church, Scottsboro United Methodist Church was transferred to the Jordania Circuit between 1900-1905 and has been a part of the Lebanon District, the Gallatin District, the Cumberland District, and the Clarksville District and is now a part of the Nashville District; and

WHEREAS, seeking to build an educational building during the pastorate of Reverend M. E. Coleman, the Women's Society of Christian Service kicked off the fundraising with a deposit of \$200 in February 1949, and with faithfully, loyal, and persistent effort saw their total grow to over \$2,100 as construction began in 1953; and

WHEREAS, dedicated on February 21, 1954, the educational building was constructed by Pastor Jacob H. Gardner and his father, E.G. Gardner, with the assistance of Rufus Gallaher, Clyde Dozier and Clarence Barnes who were on the payroll; H.M. Beard and countless others in the community volunteered their time and labor; and

WHEREAS, the next expansion of the property took place in 2006, when the city of Nashville sold the neighboring Wade School and made a portion of the school property

available to the church for purchase. Finalizing the purchase of 1.3 acres in 2007, the total property of Scottsboro United Methodist Church now covers two acres; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to maintaining their historic church, the congregation undertook another fundraising effort in 2007 to restore the beautiful stained glass windows and ensure that these treasures would be preserved for another 100 years; and

WHEREAS, currently led by Pastor Brenda Joy Edwards, Scottsboro United Methodist Church has been blessed throughout its distinguished history with the services of devout pastors whose stalwart leadership and dedication to their parishioners have shaped the direction and ministries of the Church; and

WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings, the Church leaders and congregation at Scottsboro United Methodist Church, following the guidance of the Lord, have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world and continue in their mission and Christian endeavors; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Scottsboro United Methodist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional and historic congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Scottsboro United Methodist Church, thank the good people of this congregation and their ministers for their notable service to the Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.